

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing the reproductive performance as measured by the farrowing rate in the second parity of a sow which comprises feeding to a sow during at least two consecutive periods of gestation and, optionally, during lactation, breeding and/or prebreeding amounts of L-carnitine or a salt thereof and chromium tripicolinate sufficient to enhance the farrowing rate of said sow in the second parity.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein, during gestation, the sow is fed from about 9 to 14,000 mg/day of L-carnitine or its salt and from 0.05 to 5 µg/day of said chromium tripicolinate and, during lactation, from about 20 to 34,000 mg/day of L-carnitine or its salt and from 0.1 to 10 µg/day of said trivalent chromium salt.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method of enhancing reproductive performance as measured by the farrowing rate in the second parity in a sow which comprises feeding to a sow, during at least two consecutive periods gestation and, optionally, during lactation, breeding and/or prebreeding a sow diet supplemented with amounts of L-carnitine or a salt thereof and chromium tripicolinate sufficient to enhance the farrowing rate of said sow in the second parity.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 4 wherein the sow diet, administered during gestation and lactation, is supplemented with from 20 to 1500 ppm of L-carnitine and 20 to 1000 ppb of chromium tripicolinate.

Claims 6-15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method of enhancing the reproductive performance as measured by the farrowing rate in the second parity of a group of sows which comprises feeding to a group of sows during two consecutive periods of gestation and, optionally, during lactation,

breeding and/or prebreeding amounts of L-carnitine or a salt thereof and chromium tripicolinate sufficient to enhance the farrowing rate of said group of sows in the second parity.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 16, wherein, during gestation, the each sow is fed from about 9 to 14,000 mg/day of L-carnitine or its salt and from 0.05 to 5 µg/day of said chromium tripicolinate and, during lactation, from about 20 to 34,000 mg/day of L-carnitine or its salt and from 0.1 to 10 µg/day of said trivalent chromium salt.